

## Timeline

**Directions:** Complete the timeline given below by arranging the events in chronological order. You will need to consult an almanac or other reference books to which your teacher directs you.

### List of Events

1. Ford Motor Company raised daily wage from \$2.40 to \$5.00 per day
2. U. S. at war with Spain
3. First gasoline-powered automobile in U.S. invented
4. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone
5. Civil War ended
6. Disc plow invented
7. Worldwide influenza epidemic; more than one-half million dead in U.S., twenty million in world
8. President McKinley shot, died eight days later
9. Transcontinental railroad completed
10. San Francisco earthquake and fire; 503 dead
11. First oil strike in Texas
12. U.S. entered World War I
13. First transcontinental automobile trip; San Francisco to New York, May 23 to August 1
14. H.M.S. *Titanic* sank; 1503 dead

No.

1865

1869

1898

1900

1901

1903

1906

1912

1914

1917

1918

**Extending the lesson:** Research one of the events in the timeline and share your findings with the class. Or, write a news story such as might have appeared at the time in which you describe the event.

## The Salinas Valley

### Part A.

**Directions:** On the outline map of California, locate the following:

San Francisco

The Salinas River

King City

Bradley

Greenfield

The Gabilan Range

The Santa Lucia Range

Pacific Ocean

### Part B.

**Directions:** The places listed below are in the area of the novel's setting and are tourist attractions in California today. Locate these on the map. Write a brief description of no more than 50 words such as might appear on a brochure.

Point Sur (Big Sur)

The San Andreas Fault

Pinnacles National Monument

San Juan Bautista

Salinas

Monterey

Hearst San Simeon

### Part C.

**Directions:** Name three groups of people who settled the Salinas Valley.

## A Family Tree

**Directions:** Place the names given below on the Trask and Hamilton family trees. One name is correctly placed for you on each tree.

Cyrus Trask

First wife (unnamed)

Alice Trask

Adam Trask

Charles Trask

Cathy Ames Trask

Caleb Trask

Aron Trask

Samuel Hamilton

Liza Hamilton

George Hamilton

Will Hamilton

Tom Hamilton

Joseph Hamilton

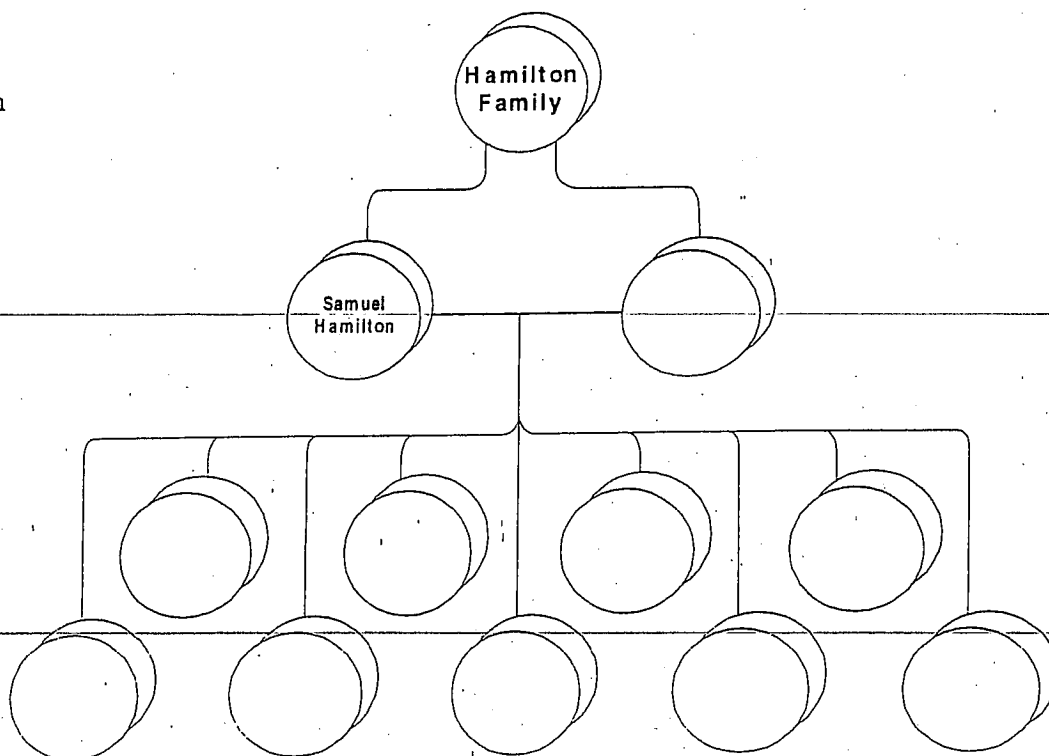
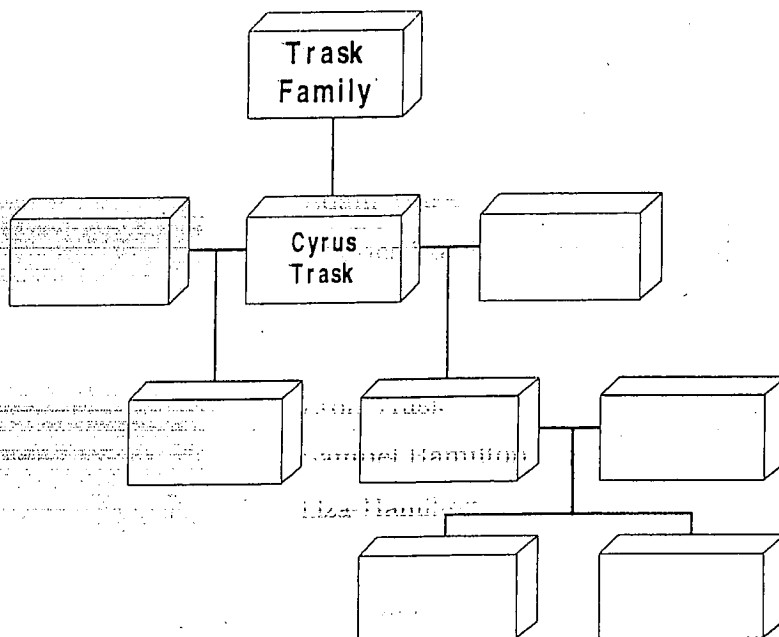
Lizzie Hamilton

Una Hamilton

Dessie Hamilton

Olive Hamilton

Mollie Hamilton



EAST OF EDEN Study Guide

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Period \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. East of Eden is an obvious allegory of the Cain – Abel story following two generations. According to Steinbeck, "The fable itself is the symbol – story of the human soul." Explain what he means.
2. Why is the Caleb – Aron story an ironic reversal to the original Cain – Abel story?
3. The novel restates a basic theme of Steinbeck's. What human beings call "good" and "evil" are actually complex rather than simple phenomena, and when one attempts to judge as though he were a god, the end result will be both futile and tragic. Explain how this applies to the novel.
4. The "group drama" of moral choice is the basic thematic organization for East of Eden. The "free will" of the individual determines the actual meaning of the individual role. Explain how this applies to the novel.
5. There are parallel characters in the two main generations in East of Eden. What is the reason for the similarity between Charles and Cal? What is the reason for the difference?
6. Discuss Cathy's character and function in the novel.
7. What is the significance of the word "timshel" in the novel?
8. Discuss Hubris, or pride, with relation to the novel.

## East of Eden – Study Guide

Explain the meaning of the following quotes from the novel.

1. Adam's mother ran the farm, bore Adam, and still had time to embrace a primitive theosophy. (Part 1, Ch. 3, Sec. 1, p. 17)
2. More than that, he was one of those responsible for the organization of the G.A.R. as a cohesive and potent force in the national life. (Part 1, Ch.3, Sec.1, p. 23)
3. Her mouth was well-shaped and well-lipped but abnormally small—what used to be called a rosebud. Her ears were very little, without lobes, and they pressed so close to her head that even with her hair combed up they made no silhouette. (Part 1, Ch.8, Sec.1,p.96)
4. A man who can't learn from experience is a fool, he said. (Part 1, Ch.9, Sec.3, p.131)
5. The baby is safe. Your aim was bad. (Part 2, Ch. 13, Sec. 2, p.175)

## East of Eden –Study Guide Pg. 2

6. That reminds me – Mr. Trask here is thinking of buying the Bordoni place – the old Sanchez grant – you remember? (Part 2, Ch. 13, Sec.3, p. 187)

7. Lee glanced down the page. "Thou wilt soon die and thou are not yet simple nor free from perturbations, nor without suspicion of being hurt by external things; nor kindly disposed towards all; nor dost thou yet place wisdom only in acting justly. (Part 4, Ch. 51, Sec.1, p. 730-731).

8. I don't know how long you will live, Adam. Maybe a long time. Maybe an hour. But your son will live. He will marry and his children will be the only remnant left of you. (Part 4, Ch.55, Sec. 3, p. 777).

9. List and explain the relationships in the Trask family.

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10. Contrast the settings of the novel.

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## East of Eden – Study Guide Pg. 3

11. What events give time structure to the saga?

12. How does Steinbeck honor his mother?

13. Discuss Lee's role in the novel.

14. Discuss the significance of the following character's names:

- a. Cyrus –
- b. Adam–
- c. Cathy Amesbury–
- d. Charles–
- e. Samuel Hamilton–
- f. Caleb–
- g. Aron
- h. Abra–

15. Why is religious fanaticism an important issue in the novel?

**East of Eden – Study Guide Pg. 4**

16. Discuss Steinbeck's championship of the underdog.

17. Discuss Steinbeck's rhetorical skills.

18. Discuss the theme of choice as depicted in the Trask family.

19. Describe Cathy's manipulative skills.

20. Analyze the significance of war to the novel.



## East of Eden – Study Guide Pg. 5

21. Contrast the values of Cal and Aron.

22. Contrast how Adam and Charles perceive evil and good.

23. Explain why Aron joins the army.

24. Describe Cyrus's attitude toward family.

25. Discuss why Cal wants to join Will in the bean business.